

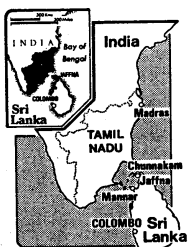
Page Denied

Financial Times Tuesday August 14 1984

OVERSEAS NEWS

Simon Henderson, recently in Washington, explains the concern over reports of Chinese involvement

Why Pakistan may not need to test a nuclear device



Five rebels killed in Sri Lanka clash

COLOMBO — Five guerrillas were killed during a 45-minute battle between separatist rebels and police in Sri Lanka's troubled northern province yesterday.

Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, National Security Minister, reported the incident — the latest in a 10-day offensive by guerrillas fighting for a separate State for the minority Tamils.

This brings the official death toll in violence between the separatists and the security forces since August 4 to 85 — including 12 casualties among the police and army. Unofficial reports put the death toll much higher.

Mr Athulathmudali said a group of guerrillas had attacked a police station at Kayts, a small island off the northern Jaffna peninsula, with guns and bombs.

The Government was investi-

THE FIRST the world knew of India's ability to produce a nuclear explosion was when a device was detonated in 1974. Israel's nuclear capabilities have been assumed over the years, without a test; South Africa may or may not have tested a nuclear bomb over the southern Indian ocean in 1979.

By contrast, Pakistan's efforts in the nuclear field have taken place in the full glare of publicity, ever since it emerged in 1979 that a Pakistani scientist, Dr Abdul Qader Khan, had stolen secrets about uranium enrichment technology from a research plant in the Netherlands.

Pakistan has consistently and vigorously denied that it is engaged in building a bomb. President Zia ul-Haq has claimed time and again that Pakistan's nuclear programme is entirely peaceful. Western governments who have been following the matter believe however that there is strong circumstantial evidence to the contrary.

They think that both President Zia and the man he deposed and eventually executed, President Z. A. Bhutto, concluded that the security of their country, carved out of India in 1947, rested ultimately on the possession of a nuclear weapon.

Since about 1982 official Pakistani denials that it is attempting to build a bomb have worn thin as reports have trickled in of the country's attempts illicitly to acquire sensitive material.

Only recently it was announced that the U.S. Customs had confiscated a shipment to Pakistan of electronic switches suitable for use in a nuclear weapon, and Democratic Senator Alan Cranston has warned that China was supplying Pakistan with nuclear material.

Despite the publicity, and the measures taken by Western countries to stop the export of sensitive technology, Pakistan's nuclear bomb programme has apparently progressed steadily. In the past three years there has been increasing collaboration on nuclear matters between Pakistan and China, breaching internationally accepted notions of proliferation.

U.S. officials gave up trying to stop Pakistan acquiring an atomic bomb several years ago, judging that it was an impossible task; but most officials still thought they could control the situation.

U.S. policy on the Pakistani nuclear issue was based on drawing red lines which, if crossed, would lead to relations

being jeopardised. Officials refuse to say what the red lines are but suggest they include the testing of a nuclear weapon, the reprocessing of spent reactor fuel to obtain plutonium—a potential nuclear explosive, and public boasting about growing nuclear potential.

In return for a \$3.2bn military and economic aid package to bolster Pakistan's defences against the Soviet presence in Afghanistan, it was hoped that Pakistan's military-led regime would no longer feel it necessary to continue with a secret nuclear weapons programme.

During 1983 it seemed that the policy of containment was working. Attempts by Pakistan to buy abroad several dozen 13-in diameter stainless steel spheres which enclose the uranium in an implosion-type atomic bomb had been detected and most were stopped. Also intercepted had been orders for steel petal shapes used to surround the conventional explosive which triggers the bomb.

Furthermore, intelligence reports suggested that the uranium enrichment plant at Kahuta near Islamabad was still not working. A small reprocessing facility nearby at the Pakistan Institute of

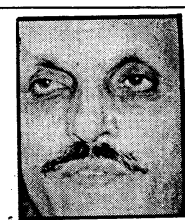
THE INDIAN NAVY is acquiring sophisticated submarines and an electronic surveillance system because of new arms purchases by Pakistan and growing big power rivalry in the Indian Ocean. Mr S. B. Chavan, Defence Minister, said yesterday, AP reports from New Delhi.

Mr Chavan declined to give parliament details of the naval modernisation plan but said more surface and sub-surface vessels and aircraft for maritime reconnaissance were being bought.

Nuclear Science and Technology (Pinstech) was also facing problems.

Anxieties grew again when it was discovered that Pakistan had developed its own precision engineering capability in Karachi where it could make spheres and curved steel plates.

Also it became clear that China was beginning to provide direct assistance in the military nuclear programme. In February 1983, a U.S. official told a Congressional committee that the Central Intelligence Agency had definite proof that talks had taken place between China



President Zia

country's solidarity, the President of Pakistan were in extreme need and gave the team of scientists an important mission it would not disappoint the nation.

Although some Administration officials dismiss this as bragging, the claim of being able to enrich uranium was repeated earlier this month by President Zia-ul-Haq himself.

There has also been an unconfirmed report that China has handed over to Pakistan a quantity of highly enriched uranium, a material suitable for use as a nuclear explosive.

China's motives for the extent of its collaboration with Pakistan are puzzling since its actions put at risk a nuclear co-operation agreement with the U.S.

While Washington re-assesses Peking's attitude to proliferation, the U.S.-China nuclear accord, which had formed the centrepiece of President Reagan's visit to China earlier this year, has been frozen.

What worries some officials is that Pakistan might have crossed all the red lines. If it does have highly enriched uranium, and if the Chinese handed over full details of a bomb, then Pakistan might not even feel it necessary to test any device that it assembles.

Mubarak puts blame on Libya for laying Anti-Arab rabbi disrupts Knesset swearing-in

BY DAVID LENNON IN TEL AVIV

ISRAEL'S NEW Knesset (parliament) was sworn in yesterday following last month's

which advocates driving all Arabs out of Israel and the occupied territories.

strated outside the Knesset yesterday against the Kach leader, whose election has raised a

Mr Shimon Peres, leader of the Labour Party, the largest in the House, has spent a week trying to form a coalition. Dis-